

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 6, 1996

Published Since 1877

MC nursing students find world of ministry in Mexico

By Mary Ann Henriques

A young Mexican mother and her young son hobbled into the free medical clinic staffed by Mississippi College (MC) nursing students.

The feet of the mother and son were torn and bloody from digging for food in the local dump — without shoes. Because of the resulting infection, they came to the one-day clinic in a barnyard of the small Mexican settlement.

Kaye Wilson, faculty member at the MC School of Nursing, led that group of 11 nursing students to the southernmost region of Texas in June 1991 to do mission work.

That was the beginning of the annual "Mexico Missions Trip." Steady growth prompted the school to incorporate the trip into a nursing course entitled "Nursing 477."

On June 15 of this year, MC nursing faculty members Deborah Bolian and Mary Ann Henriques will lead 40-50 students on the 1996 Mexico Missions Trip to minister for two weeks to those in physical and spiritual need.

Volunteers this year will include a number of physicians from the Jackson area and approximately 80 members of churches in Tallahatchie County.

God continues to push aside obstacles each year.

Organizers learned in February that a medical doctor would be required to be in attendance at every clinic.

This could have severely limited the number of clinics and therefore the number of nursing students allowed to participate.

The need for physicians became even more critical as the number of students wanting to participate increased this year. God provided the physicians almost at once.

Medicines, clothing, and supplies have also been provided by churches and other organizations across Mississippi.

Even the use of an 18-wheeler has been donated to transport the items to Mexico.

The schedule is rigorous. Students and volunteers rise at 6 a.m. for a hurried breakfast, then load water jugs, clothing, food, and supplies before travelling up to two hours in van without air conditioning to towns and villages where the clinics will be conducted.

Mexican pastors meet the teams at each clinic. Crowds come from miles away — many on foot — because the health care is free. Without the clinics, medical care is unavailable or unaffordable.

Before the first pulse or blood pressure is checked, ingrown toenail removed, or pregnancy test given, everyone is invited to

a worship service where God's word is shared and people are given the opportunity to respond.

As medical needs are treated, additional opportunities arise to share what Christ can do.

Though the staff speaks little Spanish, it is not what is said but the love and compassion of Christ that is communicated through a smile, gesture, or gentle touch.

It can be as simple as providing a plastic-covered mattress to a family living outdoors with nothing on which to sleep. It might be giving a bag of beans or rice to a family with no food.

The heat is intense, often soaring above 100 degrees without the slightest hint of a breeze.

To demonstrate their gratitude, patients spend what little money they have to purchase a soda for the members of the medical team.

From tiny babies with colds or lice, to elderly ladies who come to find a new dress, to those in need of minor surgery, all go away knowing that in their world of poverty and disease there are those who care.

Participants often wonder what will happen to those they treat, and if they will survive.

All participants return home more thankful for the blessings God has given them.

Some participants consider full-time missions work. Many have life-changing experiences.

As in years past, participants covet the prayerful support of Mississippi Baptists.

Editor's note: For additional information on the group's 1996 Mexico Mission Trip, contact the MC School of Nursing at (601) 925-3380.

Henriques is a faculty member at the MC School of Nursing.



Mary Ann Henriques (center), instructor at the Mississippi College School of Nursing, cradles an infant at the free medical clinic in Reynosa, Mexico, during the nursing school's 1995 Mexico Mission Trip. Sharon Busby (left), newly graduated from the nursing school, and the child's mother (right) look on as Henriques prepares the child for examination. The annual mission trip continues to grow in popularity as new volunteers from the nursing school join with other Mississippians in braving stifling heat and substandard conditions to bring medical and spiritual healing to the people of northern Mexico.

Helping Hand

Pregnant teenagers often feel they have no one to whom they can turn, but that's not the case in two Jonesville, Va., high schools. Lisa Wolfe, 17, an Acteens member at Plain View Church in Jonesville, doesn't hesitate to approach pregnant girls in school hallways and tell them, "I'm here when you need me." Lisa receives strong encouragement from her mother Kathy, a perinatal (childbirth) nurse and Acteens leader at Plain View Church. "This project has helped Lisa become more aggressive in giving service to others, even though she is already caring and compassionate. Serving comes from the heart," said Kathy. Mother and daughter volunteer up to 25 hours per week for the Mary and Elizabeth Project, a Virginia Woman's Missionary Union program that provides a network of support for pregnant teenagers. "It's heartbreaking to hear a teen say she wanted a baby to have someone to love her," said Kathy. The Wolfe's latest success story is a young mother who had never read a Bible or heard anything about God. Now she reads her Bible daily to her newborn. "I've discovered my baby likes for me to read to her, but when I read from the Bible, her little eyes especially perk up. It's amazing," she said.

New lease on life

A run-down, former Chicago bingo hall and 1960's night-club scene, where radicals plotted the disruption of the 1968 Democratic Party convention, is now a renovated and modernized Baptist church. After spending nearly \$1 million over 14 years, Armitage Church recently dedicated the former ballroom of the Logan Square Masonic Hall as their new sanctuary. "Only God knows fully what a miracle this milestone is," said pastor Charles Lyons. The building, which was constructed in 1921, had fallen into disrepair when the 150 members of Armitage purchased it 1982. The ballroom was used for Big Band performances in pre-World War II days, and in the 1960's each floor of the four-story building housed a separate night club. Subsequent trial evidence described those trendy night spots as the locations where subversive groups gathered to plan the demonstrations and riots that marked the 1968 Democratic convention. Only the first floor of the 54,000-square-foot building has been fully renovated, but the 2,000-member congregation has high hopes for completing the project. "God is demonstrating in a tangible way his desire to reach urban people through us," Lyons said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Mississippian Charlie Herrington, whose vision and determination led to a pioneering medical/dental mission in Honduras, dies awaiting emergency surgery in a hospital in that Central American country, apparently from complications caused by an intestinal blockage.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptists' truck-mounted Bicentennial Liberty Bell is nearing the end of its year-long tour of the country that began by ringing in the Southern Baptist Convention meeting last year in Miami Beach and will conclude by doing the same this summer in Norfolk, Va.

50 years ago

The 208 members of Crowder Church in Quitman County enter a pact with the Brotherhood and Sunday School departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to sponsor a mission five miles south of the Delta town.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The typical casino patron

In its May 26, 1996, issue, the (Jackson) **Clarion-Ledger** newspaper carried an 8-page "advertising supplement" entitled the "Casino Connection." The supplement gave a portrait of the typical Mississippi casino customer:

• 46-year-old white collar worker.

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the heart" (Prov. 21:2).

• Median household income of \$37,000 with some college education.

"In the house of the righteous is much treasure; but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble" (Prov. 15:6).

• 50/50 ratio of male to female patrons.

"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands" (Prov. 14:1).

• Last year the number of casino visits increased by 23%. Two-thirds are said to be "from out of state."

"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith" (Prov. 15:16).

• The average customer makes 4.5 visits per year.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25).

Gambling flourishes at Robin-

sonville (Tunica County), Greenville, Vicksburg, and Natchez on the river, and in Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, and Biloxi on the Coast. The Choctaws (aided by federal law) have Mississippi's only "inland" gambling establishment, near Philadelphia. There are a total of 31 casinos in the state.

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not" (Prov. 1:10).

"So are the ways of everyone that is greedy of gain" (Prov. 1:19).

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart... honor the Lord with thy substance... so shall thy barns be filled with plenty" (Prov. 3:5, 9, 10).

Observations: Money talks, and guess who controls the money. The casinos are able to buy, purchase, mend, change, alter most any ordinance, rule, law, or decree of the land.

"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender" (Prov. 22:7).

"Buy the truth and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23).

"Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase" (Prov. 13:11).

It is said that Americans are hooked on gambling. In 1974, some \$17 billion was wagered; in 1994 that total was up to \$500 billion per year.

"Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious

at the wicked" (Prov. 24:19).

"He that hath a froward heart findeth no good" (Prov. 17:20).

Tax revenues from gambling have filled the coffers of our state. The total collection thus far is over \$200 million. That will up the salaries of a lot of teachers and pave a lot of highways.

Think of all the construction and new jobs the "gaming industry" has brought forth. Tunica County is said to have more hotel rooms than Jackson. Biloxi is boasting of a plan to build an 1,800-room hotel... the largest between New Orleans and Atlanta.

"A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence" (Prov. 13:2).

"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth: and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty" (Prov. 11:24).

In the month of March, customers wagered \$923 million on \$1 slot machines at Mississippi casinos and lost roughly \$48.3 million.

"He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart" (Prov. 11:29).

The truth is that gambling is morally wrong. It is contrary to the spirit of the Scriptures, it damages individuals, and is destructive to society.

"HELLO. ARE YOU IN NEW ORLEANS FOR THE CONVENTION, TOO?"



THE FRAGMENTS

Who has what

The top 20% of U.S. families earns 55% of the nation's income and shoulders 61% of the total federal tax burden, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. The top 1% of families pays 17% of all federal taxes and enjoys 14% of the income.

You wonder how such a conversation as the following could ever take place:

One person was trying to get another to save for a "rainy day."

"Oh no," he said, "with my

luck, I'd end up without any rainy days and then I'd be stuck with all that money."

Oscar Wilde once described a cynic as "a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

When we recognize we are stewards over all our possessions, then we begin our growth in stewardship. Love is the real foundation for good stewardship. Helen Keller said, "Love may be our best glimpse of eternity." — GH

bricks fell away.

We began to attend pro-life groups. More bricks fell. I applied for a position at the Right to Life League and still more bricks came tumbling down.

Today, God has given us his total peace and wholeness through the mercy of Jesus Christ and his ultimate sacrifice.

Through PACE (post-abortion counseling and education) Bible study, and through sharing God's promise of restoration with others, my wound has become a scar. I now use that scar and my knowledge of the deception and lies surrounding abortion to try to save others from post-abortion pain.

Birky is director of education for Southern California's Right to Life League in Pasadena. This article first appeared in BSSB's *Experiencing God* magazine (January 1996 issue).

Forgiveness after abortion helped "bricks fall away" in woman's heart

By Margaret Birky, with Kurt Birky

PASADENA, Calif. (BP) — April 19, 1994, marked a very special day for my husband Kurt and me. I gave birth to our son Christian Mel Jeremiah Birky. We were overwhelmed with emotion — elated happiness and heart-wrenching pain.

Feelings of deep-seated guilt and sadness swept over me as I thought of the impact of the decision we'd made eight years earlier.

Kurt and I had just finished our freshman year of college. We had just begun to date, yet we made a mistake and I became pregnant.

At a local pregnancy center, I tearfully told the counselor I didn't see how we could have this baby. She nodded and explained that an abortion could be arranged.

She told us nothing about the "tissue" the doctor would be "removing" — that it already had eyes, toes, a nose, fingers and even fingerprints. With very little discussion and no prayer, we scheduled the appointment.

Abortions cannot be performed before the eighth week — so, for five agonizing weeks, I desperately hoped my parents wouldn't notice how tired and sick I was. I shrank from any baby brought within 20 feet of me.

Relief washed over me that day in August when there were no protestors on the steps of the abortion clinic as Kurt and I walked up.

During the following years of my darkness, I have wondered a million times whether we would have turned away had someone only made us aware of the consequences. Because Kurt and I had both been raised in Christian homes, we had a small inkling of the power of Jesus Christ. However, we completely left him out of this experience.

The abortion was painful physically as well as emotionally. I remember every detail of the room I was in — even the color of the calico-patterned fabric stitched over the jars where the parts of my

baby were collected.

The immediate sense of relief the abortion provided faded quickly, only to be replaced by lingering feelings of guilt, depression, rage, and worthlessness. Like many women who have had abortions, I experienced a physical pain in my arms so intense that sometimes I could barely lift them. They ached and felt so empty.

Kurt and I tried to gloss over what happened. But when Kurt met a leader for Campus Crusade for Christ, the Lord began to work in our hearts. Kurt made a decision to give his life to Jesus. With God's help, we made the decision to remain abstinent for the next three years, until our wedding night.

However, we were not fully convicted of what we had done until we settled in Los Angeles following our graduation and wedding. Our pastor frequently spoke about abortion, often to a hostile crowd at church.

It was agonizing to sit in the

pew and listen to him. Every cell in my body wanted to run away as far and as fast as I could. It is incredibly difficult to admit you paid someone to kill your child.

One Sunday a woman from a local pregnancy assistance clinic came to church to make an announcement about a fund-raiser. Before the congregation she sang a song which marked the beginning of my healing.

That day I cried for hours. When I asked Kurt why people had to be so mean, he responded: "I think they're right." He explained that even though we'd asked God to forgive us for this sin, we weren't really repenting.

For the first time, I felt the full weight of what Kurt and I had done. Like a brick wall on my shoulders, it had been crushing me. Yet by our taking that first step to condemn our sin, a few of the

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 120 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 18
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor..... Guy Henderson
Associate Editor..... William H. Perkins Jr.
Editorial Associate..... Florence Larrimore
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Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Billie Buckley, Petal; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Bill Hardin, Ripley; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula; Carl White, Clarksdale; Betty Smith, secretary.
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.

Election likely to swing SBC back to conservative wing

NEW ORLEANS (ABP) — After a two-year experiment with new leadership, Southern Baptists are expected to return the reins of power to the group of conservative leaders that has steered the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) since 1979.

The June 11-13 convention in the New Orleans Superdome will conclude the two-year tenure of Jim Henry of Orlando, which loosened — at least slightly — the tight grip hard-line conservatives have held on SBC leadership since 1979, when they began a success-

ful campaign to wrest control of the 15 million-member convention from moderates.

Messengers to the New Orleans convention are expected to elect Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff to succeed Henry — apparently without opposition. A former mission-

ary, Elliff was the choice of a group of about 80 conservative leaders, including most of the men who have held the office since the conservative swing began.

The group, which also included some of Henry's supporters, met in Atlanta in November to agree on a nominee — and thus avoid a repeat of the awkward 1994 showdown among conservatives that produced Henry's election.

Those leaders say Elliff's election would ease their concerns that Jim Henry's appointments to key SBC committees have slowed the momentum of the conservative movement.

Supporters say Henry, as promised, has enlarged the pool of Southern Baptist leadership in a way that will create a healthier SBC.

Opponents say Henry's leadership — and particularly his appointments to key committees — has diverted the conservative juggernaut, though only temporarily.

Still others say Henry's tenure has changed nothing.

"I really don't feel there is any change in the convention from the conservative resurgence," said Bailey Smith, an Atlanta evangelist who served two terms as president in the 1980s. "Jim Henry may be somewhat of a parenthesis in that effort."

Although he did not seek or receive the endorsement of the conservative hierarchy in 1994, Henry outpolled Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe — the movement's hand-picked candidate — thus breaking the 15-year string of victories for the close-knit fraternity of conservative leaders.

Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, was again considered this year by the group of 80 but declined ahead of time. Another favorite, John Bisagno, pastor of First Church of Houston, withdrew for health reasons.

At the Atlanta meeting, Bailey Smith nominated Elliff, his brother-in-law who succeeded him as pastor of First Southern Church in Del City, Okla. Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, also was suggested, along with O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church in Dallas, and several others.

Elliff and Patterson emerged as the group's favorites — Elliff drew six more votes than Patterson in a secret ballot. The two men left the room to confer, according to

participants. Patterson returned to say he would withdraw, leaving Elliff as the group's choice.

Henry's 1994 candidacy revealed a division — though perhaps minor — among conservatives over the future direction of their movement. Long-time leaders argue the need to stay the course, while a younger group of conservatives, mostly baby boomers, say the time is right to broaden the leadership.

Stung by talk of a rift, this year conservatives have called a truce of sorts. They have chosen a candidate acceptable to the baby-boomer leaders yet trusted by the old guard.

"Tom was the obvious choice," explained Ike Reighard, associate pastor of First Church, Atlanta, and a participant in the Atlanta meeting.

Although Elliff's consensus candidacy may indicate peace in the conservative camp, it is not necessarily a sign of progress to Henry, who argues for a wide open election process, as in years past, when five or more presidential nominees were offered.

"I think having two nominees is better," he said. "It creates a sense of more participation."

Hard-line conservatives say indeed there is a threat, and they point to Henry's appointments as evidence.

Henry abandoned the practice of picking committee members who had been scrutinized by core conservative leaders. He turned down the offer of a long-time conservative operative to screen nominees for him.

Instead, Henry consulted the executives and presidents of the state conventions and others in the Baptist bureaucracy. The result, say critics, is a crop of agency trustees less committed to conservative reforms.

Bailey Smith said even some of Henry's supporters were "surprised and concerned" by his appointments. "I don't believe any of those who supported Jim Henry thought he would soften the appointments," the evangelist said.

Smith did not identify troublesome appointments, but he added, "I can say categorically, I certainly regret some of last year's appointments. I'm against anything that slows this [movement] down, and that happened last year."

"But in Tom, we will have 100% strong appointments," Smith said.

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Ground-breaking begins health center joint effort

A pair of Mississippi Baptist institutions joined shovels June 6 to break ground for The Baptist Healthplex, an \$11.5 million health and fitness facility on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson, one of the state's largest medical centers, and Mississippi College (MC), the state's largest Baptist-affiliated four-year school, plan to open the 106,000 square-foot facility in 1997 to MC students, faculty, and residents of Clinton and the surrounding area.

The building will be located in the northeast corner of the campus on the site of the old football field. It will be connected to the existing Alumni Hall, which is being renovated.

"Great things can result when two of Mississippi's leading Baptist institutions collaborate, and we're seeing evidence of that today," said MC President Howell W. Todd.

Jerry Cotton, MBMC acting executive director, added, "We are excited about the impact this project will have on the future of Mississippi College, the residents of Clinton, and Mississippi Baptist Medical Center."

Cotton said The Baptist Health-

plex will focus on a complete program of health, fitness, and lifestyle counseling that reflects Americans' increasing emphasis on avoiding illnesses and holding down medical costs through healthy lifestyles.

"Until a few years ago, the medical community was focused primarily on treating injuries and illnesses, and there wasn't as much emphasis on keeping people from getting sick in the first place. By promoting fitness and healthy lifestyles, we can often help people avoid or delay expensive care later," he pointed out.

The Baptist Healthplex is the

latest in a series of construction projects and upgrades to the 171-year-old campus in Clinton.

Ground was broken on Nov. 20, 1995, for a high-tech, 144-room men's residence hall in the southeast corner of the campus that will feature in-room connections for the Internet computer network, electronic mail, and online library searches.

Renovations to Jennings Hall were completed late last year, and long-range plans call for a connector building to link Self Hall to the Hederman Science Building. In addition, tennis, soccer, and volleyball fields will be relocated.



The Baptist Healthplex

Campers set silver anniversary for June 18-21 in Greenwood

By Tim Nicholas

More than 300 families with motor homes, camping trailers, and pop-up campers are expected to attend the 25th anniversary meeting of the National Campers on Mission (COM) June 18-21 at the Greenwood Civic Center in Greenwood.

COM is a Baptist-led organization of Christian campers who provide ministries to other campers. The Greenwood meeting will be the first COM national rally in Mississippi.

Registration will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 17. The Miracles, a singing group of residents

from the Baddour Center in Senatobia, will present a pre-rally concert at 8 p.m.

Registration will continue at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, with the opening of the rally scheduled for 6:20 p.m.

The opening message will be brought by John McBride of Memphis, former Mississippian and currently associational director of missions for Shelby County, Tenn. McBride was an organizer of the first COM rally in 1972, held at Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky.

Other speakers scheduled for

the rally include:

— Don Hammonds, Joel Land, Mike Robertson, and Bill Lee, all with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta.

— Larry Haslam of Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

— Lendol Jackson, COM state coordinator in Arkansas.

Musicians include Euel Nelson, Monticello layman; HMB's Mission USA Live; Jeanna Crowder of Emmanuel Church, Grenada; Sin Busters, a youth music and drama group from Friendship Church, Grenada; and Bill Baker, pastor emeritus of First Church, Clinton.

Frances Allen, member of First Church, Ridgeland, will entertain with a comedy sketch on June 19.

Conference subjects covered at the rally will include:

— Campground Worship Walk.

— How to Develop a Golf Ministry.

— Ups and Downs of Juggling.

— Fun Songs and Choruses.

— Volunteer Opportunities.

— Campers on Mission—How to Be Involved.

— How to Plan a Construction Project.

The newly-inaugurated mass feeding unit of the Mississippi

Baptist Disaster Relief Unit will be on hand June 20 to provide dinner for the campers.

James Ray of Ripley is COM national committee chair. Co-chairs are G.A. McCoy of Carriere and Russell Reeves of McComb. McCoy also serves as president of the Mississippi COM chapter.

For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Nicholas is director, MBCB Office of Communication.



Mississippi native LaFloy Johnson (left) and David Wooten (right) make up the duo "Spiritwind." The duo will perform their brand of Christian country music in Western Europe during a month of crusades beginning Oct. 9. Their participation in the crusades came at the request of Foreign Mission Board crusade coordinators Dub and Doris Jackson.

Louisiana College faculty angry at trustees over rejection of teacher

PINEVILLE, La. (ABP) — Louisiana College faculty members are in open rebellion over the board of trustees' rejection of a teaching applicant, a vote some say is "an assault on academic freedom" at the Baptist school in Pineville, La.

The reaction to the rejection of prospective faculty member Lawanda Smith is the most visible public sign of the battle between so-called moderate and conservative Baptist factions for control of the college. Smith was turned down after undergoing what she described as an "inquisition" by board members.

The teaching faculty is going public with its project, unanimously passing a resolution asking the trustees to stay out of the hiring of prospective teachers and preparing a letter to be sent to alumni to "rally in support of Dr. Smith" and "preserve the traditional integrity of the institution from being compromised," said Bill Simpson, professor of history.

Simpson said Smith's rejection for the job of assistant professor of religion was "unprecedented" and has left the faculty "greatly concerned about what might be coming next."

Members of the faculty wore white ribbons in support of Smith at the school's recent graduation ceremonies. Some also had her initial, "L.S.," displayed on their mortarboards.

Ex-President Robert Lynn said he was "extremely disappointed" by the board's decision to turn down Smith, but he refused to comment about whether conservative Baptists on the board were behind the vote.

While Lynn refused to talk of the religious rift, Simpson said "there are a number of trustees who are acting in a most non-Baptist manner" by imposing conditions on what faculty members must believe and what they must teach.

"The faculty would like to keep the academic quality ... from being compromised by what seems to be clearly a faction within the trustees who would attempt" to control what is taught at the school, Simpson said.

Lynn said the decision was made in executive session, so he could not discuss the board's reasons for not hiring Smith.

Stan Miller, a member of the board of trustees, also said he could not comment on the board's action because it was done in executive session.

But he did say, "I feel like the trustees voted their convictions" based upon the information they were given. He agreed with the characterization that he was a "conservative" on the board.

Lynn, who is retiring after 20 years of running the school, said he believes "it is inappropriate for trustees to micromanage an institution and to get involved in the interviewing and selection of personnel."

Lynn also said "the tendency to micromanage the institution... will without question make it more difficult to attract an experienced, competent administrator" to replace him.

Smith, 35, graduated summa cum laude from Louisiana College in 1983. He holds a master's degree in English from Louisiana Tech University and a master of

Mississippi native son will span an ocean with the gospel, music

NASHVILLE (BP) — As sons of Baptist preachers, David Wooten and LaFloy Johnson grew up "on the road" — moving from church to church with their parents as their fathers pursued their callings to share the gospel.

Now, Wooten, son of Herman Wooten, longtime California pastor and associational director of missions, and Johnson, whose father, the late Billy G. Johnson, served in churches in Mississippi and Alabama more than 40 years until his death in 1990, are, in the words of famous country singer/songwriter Willie Nelson, "on the road again" as the Christian country musical act "Spiritwind."

The "road" will even span an ocean.

"Spiritwind" will perform concerts in the following Mississippi churches throughout the summer:

Date	Time	Church	City
June 9	7 p.m.	Tate	Corinth
June 16	11 a.m.	Springfield	Morton
June 16	7 p.m.	Dixie	Hattiesburg
June 18	7 p.m.	County Line	Ovett
June 23	11 a.m.	Kittiwake	Pass Christian
July 7	6 p.m.	First	Cleveland
July 14	6 p.m.	First	Canton
July 28	7 p.m.	First	Aberdeen
Sept. 22	7 p.m.	First	Corinth

The duo, along with their band, has received an official invitation to participate in a month-long series of crusades in Norway, Sweden, and Italy beginning Oct. 9 of this year — an invitation from Dub and Doris Jackson, crusade coordinators for Western Europe for the Foreign Mission Board.

"Country music has always been popular in Europe," Wooten said. "But since Garth Brook's 1994 European tour, the Europeans' love for it has soared to new heights."

"We believe it will provide an excellent medium to present God's message of love and forgiveness to those who might not otherwise be exposed to the gospel," Wooten said.

Dub Jackson, who recently returned from a trip to Europe to meet with European Baptist leaders, said they were very excited about plans to use music as a drawing card for the crusades. "Country music seems to be very popular over there," he observed.

Further concerts are planned in Tennessee and beyond: a Mississippi tour in June; a Florida tour

in July; a Midwest tour — Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas — in August; and various dates in September.

The pair met in 1995 after Wooten moved to Nashville.

"I saw David's press packet laying on the floor at the office of the Christian Country Music Association," Johnson said. "I picked it up and started reading it. When I found out he was a Baptist preacher's son and had been a Baptist preacher himself, I wanted to meet him. But, when I heard his tape, I really wanted to meet him. He's a great singer."

Johnson, a 1985 graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, moved to Nashville — for the third time — in 1989 from Mississippi, where he was working as a newspaper reporter and part-time church music director.

"I was 19 the first time I moved to Nashville," Johnson said. "I thought I was something special, but, truthfully, I was a green weed. I stayed in Nashville about nine months, spent all my savings and then moved back to Mississippi."

The second time, he lasted a year and a half.

However, the third time — 12 years after the first — "as they say, has been the charm," with Johnson eventually working his way into the tight-knit Nashville music community. As a songwriter, he has had several songs recorded, including a current Christian country single, "Nothin' Like Love," recorded by Melody Bieser, a Southern Baptist artist from Pataskala, Ohio.

MBMC Samaritan Center receives full accreditation for 15 Mississippi centers

The Samaritan Counseling Center at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) has been awarded full accreditation for 1996-2000 from the Denver, Colo.-based Samaritan Institute.

The center, founded in September 1995, has also been accredited by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, and is Mississippi's only fully accredited pastoral counseling center.

"We're proud of this honor, and what it represents...," said Barry Click, center director.

Through its affiliation with the Samaritan Institute, the center is part of a national network of Samaritan Centers which has more than 330 offices and serves 250 communities in 33 states and Japan.

The center is operated by a

board and supported by MBMC and 12 area congregations. It provides a range of outpatient services, including counseling, educational programs, and consultation for physicians.

Staffed by 11 counselors and administrative staff members, the center has satellite offices in 15 churches statewide, including:

- Alta Woods Church, Jackson;
- Broadmoor Church, Jackson;
- Calvary Church, Jackson;
- Calvary Church, Hattiesburg;
- First Church, Madison;
- First Church, Laurel; and
- New Horizon Church, Jackson.

Samaritan Counseling Center is open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call (601) 973-1697 or (800) 948-6262.

U.S. Christian leaders to begin campaign to counter Farrakhan

By Jackie Thompson

Did you know that Louis Farrakhan believes and teaches that:

- 1) he is the Messiah;
- 2) only 25% of what the Bible says about Jesus Christ is true;
- 3) Christians should not worship Jesus;
- 4) W.D. Farad is God in person; and

5) Jesus was not born in Bethlehem, he was born in Sandersville, Ga.?

Should Christians unite under a leader who does not acknowledge the deity of Christ? Can a Christian, a believer in divine love, unite with a man who teaches a message of hate toward another? Jesus asked, "How can two walk together unless they be agreed?"

Are Christians justified in laying down their crosses for the cause of unity among men?

African-American Christian leaders are insulted by the recent efforts of the Nation of Islam's leader, Louis Farrakhan, to speak on behalf of African-American men — under the guise of a march which had as its alleged purpose the unification and atonement of African-American men.

William Dwight McKissic,

senior pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, and several local and national ministers don't think so.

They are outraged and are fighting back as they launch a national campaign to defend the Christian faith against the theology of the Nation of Islam and Louis Farrakhan, who are Muslim.

The campaign is aptly titled "Fighting for the Faith!" and is designed to encourage African-Americans, particularly African-American Christians, to remain within the Christian faith which, according to McKissic, is the historic faith of most African-Americans.

The members of the executive committee for the Fighting for the Faith Campaign (FFFC) are McKissic, LaSalle Vaughn, Robert Fowler, Ron O'Guinn, Darrell Wilson, Willie Cain, Howard Caver, and Darrell Davis.

FFFC's mission is to make the Christian community aware of Louis Farrakhan's false and blasphemous claims concerning Christ, to defend the faith against such claims, and to alert Christians to avoid supporting Far-

rakhan's marches and gatherings which deny the lordship of Christ and inadvertently support Farrakhan's unbiblical claims.

FFFC's mission is to affirm the deity of Jesus Christ and the absolute necessity of his shed blood as the only atonement for man's sin. FFFC will expose and oppose any group who aggressively seeks to influence and invade the church with false doctrine.

The FFFC is not a race issue, but a faith issue. Inherent is the fact that it is a faith issue the campaign includes African-Americans, Asians, Anglos, Latinos, and others who make up the Christian faith.

Thompson, of J. Thompson Public Relations, Nashville, is the spokesperson for Fighting for the Faith Campaign.

Thursday, June 6, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



MC gains federal grant

The Mississippi College (MC) School of Business has been awarded over \$103,000 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Education. The money will go to fund MC's International Business Involvement Program, to promote education and training to help prepare U.S. businesses to prosper in an international economy. MC was one of only 26 grant proposals chosen to be funded nationwide. Announcing the award of the grant (from left) are: Randall Robbins, chairman of the Department of Business Administration; Howell Todd, MC president; and Lloyd Roberts, dean of the School of Business.

Leaders seek road to racial reconciliation

particular agencies.

The task force acknowledged the challenge of getting the racial reconciliation message to local churches, noting there is positive news on the issue not being heard by the people in the pews. The group agreed the Christian Life Commission (CLC) could act as clearinghouse for reports of reconciliation between believers and for suggested reading lists from the six seminaries in the area of cross-cultural relations.

Richard Land, chairman of the task force and president of the CLC, acknowledged any transformation of the SBC will have to be worked out on "person-to-person, family-to-family, church-to-church basis," saying the reconciliation will only be lasting if it begins at "the local level and works its way up to the convention leadership level."

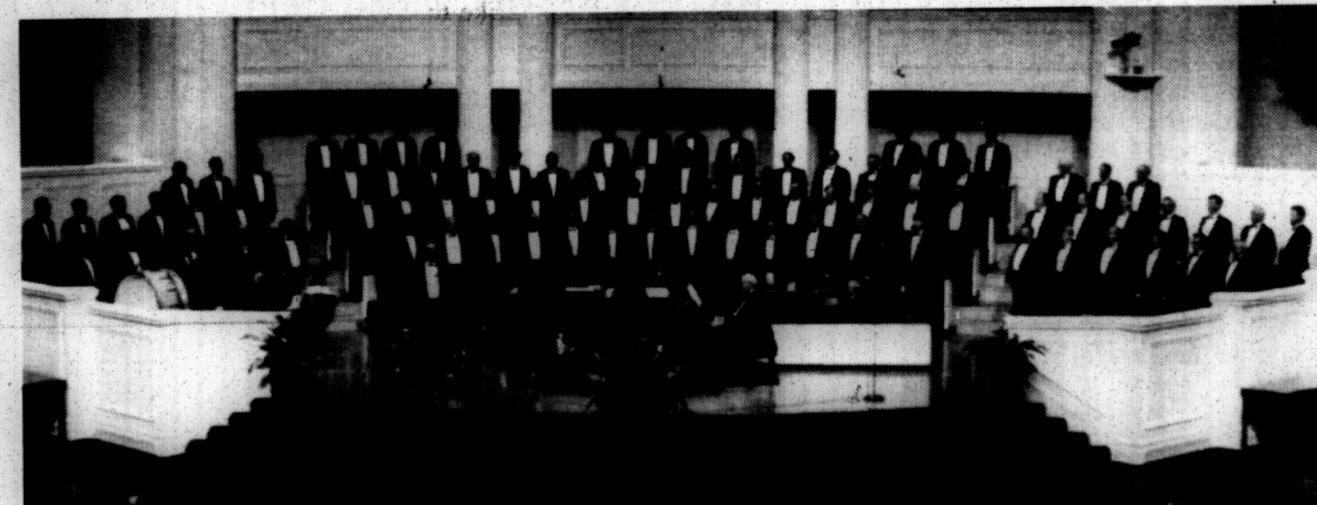
Members of the task force, representing the entities of the SBC, spent most of the day describing efforts to overturn racial and ethnic bias within the convention as a whole and their

empowers us and impels us to seek reconciliation with others," he said, citing the apostle Paul's "ministry of reconciliation" in 2 Corinthians 7:15.

Land said most white Southern Baptists have no awareness of the extent to which racial and ethnic prejudice continues to exist in the U.S.: "They are shocked when they hear of that which is part of the daily experience of African-Americans and other minorities in this country."

Leroy Gainey, associate professor of inter-cultural studies and Christian education at Golden Gate Seminary in San Francisco, agreed, noting, "Many students do not know what these groups have gone through and where these walls still exist today. We must instruct them in the strategies that can tear down these walls."

"Thirty or forty years from now, people will come back and take a look at what we are doing here," said Bill Sumners of the Historical Commission. "We may make history or simply be a dot in history. It's up to us."



Centurymen perform in Natchez

First Church, Natchez, will host The Centurymen in concert on June 12 at 7 p.m. The Centurymen, organized in 1969 to provide music for programming by the Radio and Television Commission, is comprised of 135 men from 21 states. The men all

serve in full-time Southern Baptist ministries, and perform under the direction of Burly Red. The concert is open to the public. For more information, call First Church, Natchez, at (601) 442-1464. Odean Puckett is pastor.

Church lagging behind Farrakhan in reaching African-American men

FORT WORTH (BP) — The belief among African-American youth that God is on their side from their African-American and Christian brothers and sisters in "Understanding African-American Youth" was the theme of the Southern Seminary's YouthWorks '96 youth ministry lab April 12-14.

Jones, who grew up in an African-American neighborhood in San Francisco, taught high school music 13 years in inner-city Dallas before entering doctoral studies at Southwestern. She became involved in a Baptist World Alliance (BWA) youth conference at age 11 and has continued BWA involvement since.

The experience of black youths, Jones said, encompasses a depreciated character, cultural incompetence, psychological scars, ambivalent behavior, and a confused self-concept from influential characteristics of the environment.

Black youths during the 1800s, Jones said, demonstrated six strengths that aren't as evident today:

- the ability to adapt to an oppressive environment without being totally debilitated by it;
- the ability to survive with little guidance from formal educational institutions and a cohe-

sive family structure; and

— a strong desire for freedom.

— a strong work ethic; and

— a sense of responsibility.

— high regard and respect for education; and

— an obedient attitude that was necessary if slaves were to function in a cooperative manner for the general welfare of all.

During the speech of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, Jones said it is now more important than ever to remember African-American youths in ministry efforts.

"They are putting an emphasis on the black male that Christian churches are not," she said. "Our black churches are 95-98% female."

With statistics claiming one-half of all African-American males between the ages of 15 and 25 will either be dead, imprisoned, on parole, or addicted to drugs by the year 2000, Jones said the time to move is now.

"The African-American males that are boys today will be those men tomorrow. If we don't take action now, those projections may very well become reality."

The Fort Worth seminary's annual lab, April 12-14, focused on contemporary issues in youth education in the church.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I accidentally discovered my husband of 48 years (and a deacon in our church) with another woman. He claimed it was only a "game," and he says he will kill himself if I leave. What should I do?

It does not sound as if he is very repentant, and by threatening to kill himself if you leave, he is attempting to throw the blame as well as the solution into your lap. He is manipulating you to divert attention from the wrong he has committed. Guilty people often use strong defenses to protect themselves when they are exposed. I strongly recommend that you seek professional Christian counseling. Talk with your pastor to explore the possibility of him (or some fellow deacons) confronting your husband about this sin; what he needs is a "broken and contrite heart." Keep your cool and do not take responsibility for his actions. Your job as a wife is first to honor Christ by

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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NFBM sets June meeting dates in N.C.

The fourth triennial meeting of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions has been scheduled for June 28-29 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

The organization, under the ministry umbrella of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, is directed by Herschel Wells. For more information on the meeting, call the Brotherhood Commission at (901) 272-2461.

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loving him (Christ), and then loving your husband as you love yourself.

We recently acquired a large sum of money and my husband gave only a small tithe. I don't want to be like Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11); should I make it up from my own income?

Seek the Lord's direction. If you feel God is leading you to make it up from your own income, that's between you and God. Listen to what Lord is telling you to do. You will do no good trying to convince your husband to tithe — that's God's job. The big difference between Sapphira and you is that Sapphira went along with her husband's deception. Don't make the same mistake. Make this an area of prayer, and seek the advice of your pastor and other Christian leaders that you respect. Most importantly, be alert to what God is saying to you about this matter.

5 hours after Ky. tornado, vols arrive

MOUNT WASHINGTON, Ky. (BP) — Less than five hours after tornadoes devastated much of northern Bullitt County May 28, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers were on the scene at First Church, Mount Washington.

By the crack of dawn May 29, the volunteers had established a command post and begun preparations for sending out hot meals and chain-saw crews.

The command center was staffed by 45 volunteers by mid-morning. The volunteers prepared meals for about 2,500 people that day and helped 27 residents clear their yards and homes of fallen trees.

The clean-up and feeding operation gained steam the next day and was projected to continue for two weeks to a month. On May 30, the number of Baptist relief volunteers had grown to 83, "and they're all busy," reported John Lott, Kentucky Convention Brotherhood associate.

Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief operation is a ministry of the state Brotherhood Department, done in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Nationwide, Baptist disaster relief units affiliated with the SBC Brotherhood Commission provide 90% of the hot meals distributed by the Red Cross during disasters, according to Red Cross statistics.

More than 1,000 homes were destroyed by the twisters that touched down around 7 p.m. on

May 28. Hundreds of families were left homeless by the storm, but no one was killed or sustained life-threatening injuries.

Volunteers serving through the

KBC disaster relief unit came from across the state, many called out in the middle of the night. Mike Klein of Lexington served as on-site coordinator.

Ala. board, Samford approve "covenant of sacred trust"

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ABP) — Alabama Baptist leaders have approved a "covenant of sacred trust" with Samford University aimed at resolving a conflict over who chooses the school's trustees.

Under terms of the agreement, approved May 17 by the Alabama Baptist state board of missions, trustees would be nominated jointly by the university and the state convention's commission on boards and commission, approved by the convention and then elected by Samford's board of trustees.

Samford trustees altered the school's charter in 1994 to make the board self-perpetuating to shield the university from fundamentalist takeover. Since 1841, Samford's board of trustees had

been chosen by the Alabama convention.

The covenant was proposed by a special "reconciliation committee" named last year to seek to resolve the dispute. The covenant calls on the university to "cooperate" with the state convention by submitting a budget request and annual report to the convention and by allowing the convention to participate in electing the school's trustees.

The state board approved the covenant with only one negative vote. The university's trustees endorsed the covenant enthusiastically, said Samford President Tom Corts. The proposal must be approved by messengers to the Alabama State Convention in November.

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Letters to the editor

Why "Father" omitted?

Editor:

The current mission statement for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) recognizes the significance of Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit, but God the Father is not recognized. The Executive Committee of the SBC declined to act on a motion that would correct this oversight. Remember, this mission statement does not reflect our fundamental theological affirmations, which it claims it does, when it omits the role of God the Father.

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Here is the current mission statement:

"The Southern Baptist Convention exists to facilitate, extend, and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern Baptist churches, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit."

Here is the proposed amended mission statement:

"In obedience to the Divine will of our Heavenly Father, the Southern Baptist Convention exists to facilitate, extend, and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern Baptist churches, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit."

Sixty-six percent is not good enough! The Great Commission instructs us to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, implications of the Father's existence are

not enough, we must include the role of God the Father in our mission statement! What can we do to correct this dilemma?

Paul Brady, pastor
Ranch Acres Church
Tulsa, Okla.

ABP disappointing

Editor:

I am a Southern Baptist. I have supported Southern Baptist causes when the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has made me happy and when it has made me sad. My bias is obvious and openly confessed. I am "for" the SBC!

As one should anticipate, I am deeply disappointed with the choice of Associated Baptist Press (ABP) articles in our state paper. In the name of objectivity they represent a deeply biased view of opposition to our beloved SBC. A majority of their support comes from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and/or churches affiliated with it.

It should be no surprise that nearly every ABP article chosen for our paper presents some facet of the SBC in a negative light or promotes something positive about the CBF. Why give free publicity to any group who competes for Cooperative Program dollars?

Recent attacks by the press upon the credibility of the Navy's highest ranking officer drove him to despair andulti-

mately suicide. The secular press is now forced to police itself with far greater sensitivity to the context and value of any news item. Perhaps our state papers need to do the same. Could it save a denomination's life?

No one is truly objective. Certainly I am not. Editorial bias is seen in the choice of articles to include as well as those not included. Since some bias is a given, why not be biased toward the great denomination that supports thousands of missionaries every day. To be objective, one does not have to be skeptical!

Thomas M. Atwood, pastor
First Church
Oxford

Tribute to Smith

Editor:

Roy Smith is retiring this year from Copiah-Lincoln Community College as Baptist Student Union (BSU) director. A BSU director is kind of like a pastor away from home for college students.

"Brother Roy" touched the lives of many people. I only lived 20 miles from the campus, and went home almost every weekend, but he was there when we needed him.

We had Vespers (a devotional time) each evening, Monday through Thursday. We went to Silver Cross Nursing Home each Monday afternoon and had a devotional with some of the residents. We had BSU conventions, leadership conferences, and retreats. I was a dorm representative, and had devotionals in the dorm Monday through Thursday.

Brother Roy suggested that I apply as a staffer for Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. I did. I

was accepted, and it was one of the greatest summers of my life.

Brother Roy was a director, pastor, counselor, and friend. As I said, I know he touched the hearts and lives of many people.

Danny Cummings
Jackson

Graham day good idea

Editor:

The suggestion by Atwell Scott ("Letters to the Editor," May 9 issue), in my opinion, was an excellent idea and should have been forwarded to the proper person for consideration and implementation.

To designate a Sunday to honor Billy Graham would be a gracious and loving thing to do.

Our children should be knowledgeable of this great man and his unique career and many accomplishments. They should know he was the greatest spokesman for Christ in the 20th century.

Scott's suggestion should have been taken more seriously than to be flippantly — it seems — trashed in a footnote.

Editor, we need not limit ourselves to prayer for Graham, as you suggest.

Haskel Stringer
Bay Springs

Support is a blessing

Editor:

I wish to share my deepest gratitude to the Board of Ministerial Education for its financial support during my educational experience at William Carey College. The support given has enabled me to attend a wonderful Southern Baptist educational institution such as William Carey College.

I also wish to thank the Christian Related Vocation fellowship for their faithful support at William Carey College. It is through the Christian Related Vocation fellowship that the Board of Ministerial Education was able to supply aid to myself and my fellow students who are called into full-time Christian service.

Thank you and God bless.
Leslie H. Trigg, III
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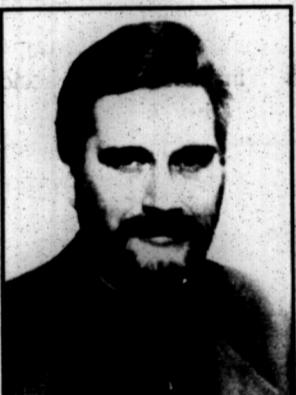
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- OTHER FEATURED SPEAKERS:
Diana Garland, Louisville, Ky.
Lyle Schaller, Research Associate, National Evangelistic Association, Naperville, Ill.
- Testimonies by home and foreign missionaries
- Messages from Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis and Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin
- Election of new WMU president

General Sessions* will be held at the New Orleans Marriott (555 Canal Street) on Sunday, June 9, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; and Monday, June 10, at 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.



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* No registration or cost required to attend the general sessions.

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Just for the Record



Trinity Church, Lumberton, began Trinity Baptist Mission on the first Sunday of January. Since that date Buddy Peters has been called as pastor. The mission has had over 80 additions, paid for five acres of land, and saved enough money for the foundation and slab for the new worship and education building. At the ground breaking for the first phase (from left) were Al Young, pastor, Trinity Church; Peters; Tommy Odom, associate pastor, Trinity Church; and Doug Benedict, director of missions, Lamar Association.

New Black Jack Church, Neshoba County, exceeded its goal of \$500 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions with a total of \$642.53. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$250 was exceeded with a total of \$318. Hugh Martin is pastor.

Oak Grove Church, Scott County, gave \$1503.50 to Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The love offering for the Baptist Children's Village on Mother's Day amounted to \$404. Victor Vaughn Sr. is pastor.

Mississippi College will sponsor the 7th Annual Minister's Golf Tournament on Aug. 5-6 at Live Oaks Golf Club. The Mississippi Baptist Convention is co-sponsoring the event. The tournament will begin on Aug. 5 at 1 p.m. with registration, team, and cart assignments. Tee off will begin at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday's schedule starts at 8 a.m. and concludes at noon with lunch and prize presentations. For more information call (601) 925-3263. Registration deadline is July 30.

WASHINGTON (BP) — The dedication of a historical marker, a White House briefing, and a reception at the U.S. Capitol were highlights of the celebration of the 175th anniversary of **The (Georgia) Christian Index** in Washington. The country's oldest religious newspaper, the **Index** was founded in the nation's capital in 1822

by pioneer Baptist missionary Luther Rice. Members of the Georgia Baptist publication's staff and board of directors, Georgia Baptist leaders and historians and other friends of the **Index** were in Washington May 4-9 for a "heritage tour" to mark the journal's beginnings.

Steve Knight, men's basketball head coach, has announced the dates for the 14th annual William Carey College Basketball Camps. For more information, contact his office at (601) 582-6111 or 582-6415; or write him at: William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Mississippi College's School of Business recently established a chapter of Delta Mu Delta, the national honor society in business administration. Included as charter honorary members were Gerald Lee, Bettye Coward, Henry Hederman, Howell W. Todd, Tony Huffman, and Edward L. McMillian.

Lay Renewal Weekend will be held at **Puckett Church**, Puckett, June 7-9. The meeting will begin with supper on Friday at 6:30 p.m. Greg Tanner, Lay

Renewal coordinator, Osyka, will be the speaker. Barry Ward is pastor.

Franklin Church, Flora, will host a community Drug Abuse/Resistance Awareness Program on June 14-15. Parents' Night will be Friday, June 14, 7-9 p.m. Speakers will be Savannah Young of Marian Hill Chemical Dependence Center; and Terry Bennett of New Hope Foundation Chemical Dependency Center. Youth Night for ages 10-21, will be Saturday, June 15, 6-9 p.m. Young, Bennett, Brad Harbor and Robby Sanders of the Madison County Sheriff's Department's K-9 Unit, will be the speakers. For more information, call Brandi Heathcock at (601) 879-8435 or Franklin Church, 879-3415.

Zion Hill Church, Wesson, will host Karen Peck and the New River Band and The Bibletones quartet in concert on June 14 at 7 p.m. For ticket information, call Billy Ashley, (601) 643-5847 or Shipp's Flowers, (601) 833-4061.

First Church, Waynesboro, is seeking a minister of youth and activities. Candidates should send resumes to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 814 Azalea Dr., Waynesboro, MS 39367.

Rankin Association is beginning a new mission effort, Northshore Mission Church, and seeks a pastor. Send resumes to Rankin Association, Attn: Northshore Steering Committee, P.O. Box 1257, Brandon, MS 39043.

Parkhill Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 40th anniversary on June 9 at 11 a.m. A covered dish meal will be served in the fellowship hall at noon. Singing will follow dinner. The guest speaker is Mose Dangerfield, director, Discipleship Training, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Jimmy Bailey, Florence, will lead the music.

Dorsey Church, Mantachie, exceeded its goal for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of \$500 with a total of \$516. Jerry Estes is pastor.

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Revival Dates

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg: June 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James Messer, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; McQue Jones, Madden, music; Keith Fulton, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge, Sturgis: June 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel,

Lake, evangelist; Kevin McHan, Starkville, music; Larry Haggard, pastor.

Robinhood, Brandon: June 9-12; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Berry, Brandon, evangelist; Barry Lyall, Brandon, music; Don Nerren, pastor.

Homecomings

Bowlin (Attala): June 9; 11 a.m.; lunch will follow morning service; Willie Bishop, speaker; V.B. Keith, music; Kathy Bishop, pianist.

County Line, Mendenhall: June 9; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish dinner followed by music with New Wine at 1:30 p.m.; T.W. Henderson, interim

Vacation Bible Schools

pastor, guest speaker.

Cedar Grove
marks its
centennial

Cedar Grove Church, Greene Association, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 21.

The church's morning worship service will begin at 10:45, and will be followed by a noon meal.

An afternoon service will begin at 1:30, and end at 3 p.m.

All former pastors are asked to contact the church at Rt. 1, Box 220, Leakesville, MS 39451.

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Names in the News

Retired Mississippi Baptist leader J. Clark Hensley has been named the 1996 Alumnus of the Year for Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He was honored during the institution's Alumni Banquet on May 17 at First Church, Kansas City, Kan. The author of 14 Christian books and booklets, Hensley wrote **In the Heart of the Young**, a biography of H.E. Dana, Central Seminary president

 Hensley

and professor of New Testament and Greek from 1938-45. Hensley and his wife Margaret live in Clinton. They have three sons and three grandchildren.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP) — **Bill Leonard** of Samford University has been tapped as the first dean for Wake Forest University's new divinity school. Leonard, chairman of the Religion Department at Samford since 1992, will assume the post July 1. The divinity school, to be housed on the university's main campus in Winston-Salem, N.C., is scheduled to open by the fall of 2000 with about 45 students and grow

as large as 135 students.

Amanda Murray is the recipient of the 1996 Suzanne Nobles Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College. Amanda is the daughter of James N. Murray of Brandon and Karon Birdwell of Clinton. She is a graduate of Clinton High School and a member of First

Church, Clinton. This scholarship was established in 1973 by friends of the Nobles family after Suzanne's death.

Jeffery Cunningham is the recipient of the 1996 T.M. Hederman III Scholarship. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cunningham of Greenville, he is a graduate of Washington High School and a member of First Church, Greenville. This scholarship was established in 1964 in memory of T.M. Hederman III.

CADIZ, Ky. (BP) — **Daniel R. Hill**, a Southern Baptist missionary to Thailand, died May 22 in an automobile accident near Cadiz, Ky. Hill, 54, was driving to Indianapolis Wednesday morning to attend a son's graduation from military boot camp when he apparently fell asleep at the wheel. His car left the road

and overturned. Hill was thrown from the car and was pronounced dead on arrival at a Paducah, Ky., hospital. He is survived by his wife Delores and four grown children.

Thomas Jamieson of Slayden has been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board, International Service Corps, to serve in Hungary. He will serve as a youth evangelist traveling around the country from village to village working with a group of Hungarian young people.

Jamieson is a graduate of Delta State University and New Orleans Seminary.

George S. Kelly, former pastor of First Church, Lyman, has been promoted to the rank of Major. He serves as a chaplain in the Ohio Wing, Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the Air Force.

Dennis Dollar of Gulfport has been elected moderator of the Gulf Coast Association.

Dollar is a layman who serves as music and youth director at Big Ridge Church, Biloxi. Chaplain Ed Holmes of First Church, Gulfport, was elected vice-moderator.

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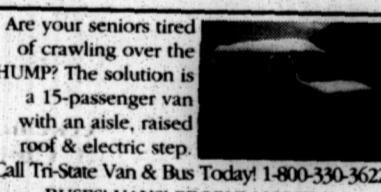


Anise Pickering McDaniel (seated) recently received an honorary doctoral degree during the 170th commencement ceremony at Mississippi College. President Howell W. Todd (right) conferred the doctor of humane letters title on the 102-year-old, dedicated supporter of the college "in genuine appreciation of more than eight decades of commitment and support of Mississippi College...." One of McDaniel's grandsons, John F. Brock (left), delivered the commencement address.

currently working on a master of divinity degree at Southern Seminary. Tiffin is a senior at Mississippi State University. She lives in Starkville and is a member of Calvary Church. Tiffin will work with Diana Bridges, director of the International Fellowship Ministry in Starkville.

Evangelist Victor Ainsworth of Saucier is available for service. Having been a member of Harrison County Sheriff's Auxiliary and Gulfport Police Reserves, he has ministered to inmates and youths. Ainsworth can be reached at (601) 831-4991.

Delores Taylor of Gainesville, Ga., will be president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Wives Conference beginning in June. Her husband is Johnny Lee Taylor, pastor, First Church, Gainesville. He was formerly pastor in McComb and Grenada.



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Love impartially



By David Mitchell
James 2, 4

With unbridled force, James emphatically stated that prejudice and partiality are an abhorrent objection among the people of God. God's children are to show no favoritism because of rank, birth, wealth, or apparel. To make his point, James told a story about two church visitors and what Foy Valentine, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, has called a "morally derelict usher" (v. 2). The usher in James' illustration bent over backwards to meet every need of the high class visitor, but the low class stranger was put in the place of inferiority, causing him to feel humiliation. The implication is clear that these church members took it upon themselves to be judges and they did so under the influence of the worldly culture, which in turn caused their church to be a worldly, compromised fellowship.

The flaw in actions of this church was that they judged at all. James followed with the statement that God has chosen "those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith in areas of the kingdom which is promised to those who love him" (v. 5). James continued, "Why do you act toward the rich in such a way when it is the rich that are your persecutors rather than your friends?"

The language of verses 6 and 7 indicates that many of those to whom James was writing were poor. Valentine notes, "Snobbery, worldly standards, servile regard for the rich and powerful, personal favoritism, and worship of rank have no place among the people of God anywhere at any time."

As a king rules his subjects, so should God's royal law of "love thy neighbor as thyself" rule God's people. Jesus explained this commandment in Luke 10:25. The teaching in both places is clear. A disciple is to treat everyone according to his real worth. Judgment is not to be passed because of appearance, clothing, complexion, or circumstances of birth. The disciple is to treat every person, all humans, as "neighbors." Those who have impressions of partiality in their minds have committed sin. The point is that God's law condemns and holds guilty those who are prejudiced and show partiality. It is not merely that God's law has been transgressed, but that a wayward and rebellious spirit has been given liberty to enter and lodge in the disciple's life (vv. 10-11).

The thought is that the disciple is to act and react with a constant reminder that soon he is to be brought to judgment. All persons who have trusted Christ will be judged by the law of liberty — that is, the law of true freedom by which men shall be freed from all sin. The sense is that in whatever you do or say, be sure to remember that you will also be judged and that you are to be judged by God's grace, which allows a person to be delivered from the bondage of sin into the freedom of the gospel. James clearly stated that those who judge and show no mercy will be shown no mercy at their judgment (v. 13).

In the fourth chapter, James once again rehearsed the message he delivered in Chapter 2. The critical spirit was denounced. Those who gossip, tell lies, speak evil of others, and have harsh criticism will face judgment from the hands of God. James made it explicitly clear that it is inappropriate for anyone to judge another person.

The point is that God is the only one worthy to pass judgment. He is the only one with the credentials of perfection, holiness, righteousness, and purity. These characteristics give him and him alone the right to be not only the Judge, but also the Lawgiver.

All humanity will one day stand before God who has the power in his judgment to save or destroy.

Since judgment passed on one's neighbor is done with no authority or power, James asked, "Who are you to judge your neighbor?" (4:12).

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book Call to repentance



By Clayton Littlejohn
Joel 1, 2

Joel's description of God's call for his people to repent teaches us that God uses life situations to lead people to turn to him. In this lesson, we will witness God's judgment against sin, the call for a solemn assembly, the coming day of the Lord, and a call for repentance. This is a message America needs to hear and hold.

God's judgment against sin (1:1-4). Joel began his book by telling us that what he had to say came from the Lord and not himself: "The word of the Lord that came." All we ministers need our messages to come from the Lord.

Next, Joel asked a question of "ye old men... all ye inhabitants of the land..." The judgment God sent was devastating locusts. Joel asked the old men and people if they ever remembered a time when the locusts were this many and so destructive. This story was to be passed from generation to generation so that each generation would fear God's judgment. In verse 4, God named four types of locusts that would bring destruction.

Why did he name four? The number four represents the earth and the four points on the compass, so God was saying that from every direction, judgment was coming unless they repented.

The call for a solemn assembly (1:14). Joel calls for the people to "sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly." When a person or nation fasts, they are denying themselves their daily necessities and giving themselves over to God in humility. They ask him to meet their needs, instead of doing it personally.

Joel was asking for all the people to gather in a solemn assembly and ask for God's forgiveness, while forsaking their sins. We need this in our churches today.

The coming day of the Lord (2:11). These locusts represented the day when huge Gentile armies would rise up against Israel. This day had not come, but it was just as sure as if it had already happened:

- (1) It would be a great army that challenges Israel.
- (2) The massive number of soldiers would make the army strong and powerful.

- (3) This future event would be worse than the locusts they were experiencing now and more devastating than anything they had ever known.

A call for repentance (2:12-17). In verse 12, God gave an invitation to the people to repent and turn back to him. (If you want a good illustration of what true repentance is, look at 1 Thessalonians 1:9). God asked for their whole hearts, and asked for their sacrifice by fasting, weeping, and mourning.

One of the ways one would express sorrow and repentance was by tearing his garments. God didn't want torn garments. He wanted torn hearts broken over sin. In verse 14, Joel said, "Who knoweth if he will return and repeat...?"

The Israelites had gone so far in sin that Joel didn't know if God would change his plans to judge them. Joel was asking for blessings instead of curses. This was so serious that Joel asked that the trumpet be blown, a fast be sanctified, a solemn assembly called, and all the people invited, "from the youngest baby to the oldest adult." It was serious.

The priests were to lead in this repentance by asking for forgiveness with weeping and contrition and maybe God would spare the people. We today should follow this pattern.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwyn.



Life and Work Authentic love



By Linda Donnell
Romans 12

Those who study English for the first time must be confused by our word "love." We love our sweethearts, we love apple pie, we love to play tennis, we love God, and so on. We may encounter sentimental love that is strong on feeling but short on help, or manipulative love that disguises the need to dominate others, or soft love that refuses the demands of personal and community integrity. Just what is "love"?

Paul, in offering practical advice to the Romans on how God expects us to live, gave *agape* love as the standard of ethical behavior for the church. By this he meant a generous, self-sacrificing form of love. In our "me" society, this might be a frightening definition. Nonetheless, it is one on which we as Christians should concentrate if we are to live out God's will.

Love versus hypocrisy (vv. 9-13). Paul's foundational words were that our love should be genuine (v. 9). He seemed to take for granted that believers, who have been transformed by unearned love, will naturally pass this love on to others. So, instead of commanding his readers to love, he dealt with the issue of genuineness.

From his admonition to love with sincerity, the apostle told how this can be embodied in our relationships with others: "Be devoted to each other," and "Honor one another above yourselves" (v. 10). Here, we are again reminded of how we are all bound together as one through the love of Christ (Rom. 12:4). Certainly, Christ has to be the center of our hearts and lives in order for us to love the unlovely.

The story is told of an overseas missionary who was ministering to needy persons in a difficult situation. A tourist remarked that he would not do that for a million dollars! The missionary responded that he would not either; he did it because he loved God's people.

Next, Paul encouraged us to stay enthusiastic and optimistic, to meet tribulation with triumphant fortitude, and to persevere in prayer (vv. 11-12). Verse 13 takes us to the practical expression of love through offering hospitality. It has been said that Christianity is the religion of the open hand, the open heart, and the open door.

Love versus conceit (vv. 14-16). Authentic love will push us to "bless those who persecute you" (v. 14). When we are hurt or mistreated, we have the example of Christ before us, who, while dying on the cross, prayed for forgiveness for those who were killing him.

Paul urged the Roman Christians to rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn (v. 15). It is often easier to sympathize with those in sorrow than to congratulate those who are successful, especially if that success brings disappointment to us. Only genuine love can keep us from envying those who do well.

Genuine love is also not proud or conceited (v. 16). Pride is good when it means a healthy self-esteem, but it is a curse when it looks down on others because of their skin color or social position. Before the cross, the ground is level. It is not "me way up here" and "you way down there." It's "us" — one family of God.

Love versus revenge (vv. 17-21). Paul emphasized that believers are not to seek personal revenge against those who have wronged them, but are to overcome evil with good. We often hear that "revenge is sweet." This is far from the truth. When we harbor revenge, it has a way of turning in on us, causing us as much pain as the one toward who we vent our bad humor. Rather than trying to get even, Christians should make special efforts to make peace without compromising biblical principles.

Life is not always fair. But the last chapter of life is never written in this world. We would do well to remember that ultimately, truth and justice are on God's side.

Paul presented some crucial guidelines for genuine love. Carrying them out will certainly not come naturally. The extent of our love shown to others reflects the depth of our love to God: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love to one another" (John 13:35). What evidence is present in your life of this love?

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

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(to be continued)

capsules

ESTIMATED 2.5 BILLION SEE GRAHAM'S LATEST TV EFFORT: MINNEAPOLIS (BP) — An estimated audience of 2.5 billion people heard the gospel message through the "Billy Graham World Television Series," an evangelistic preaching program featuring Graham and offering what one national broadcaster called "a very powerful counterpoint to the daily drudgery that most of mankind faces." The World Television Series was aired at prime time April 14 on national television networks and international satellite systems in more than 200 countries — including some traditionally opposed to the proclamation of the gospel. It is likely that more people heard the gospel message that day than on any previous day in history, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association reported.

LAST ZAMBIA MISSIONARIES RECEIVE NEW WORK PERMITS: LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — After almost three years of difficulty, all Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Zambia have been granted work permits by the government, according to missionary Dan Sowell. A permit issued in late April for missionaries Ed and Linda Miller was the last in a series of work documents previously refused by the government at the request of leaders of the Baptist Convention of Zambia, who wanted to control missionary assignments in the country. The new permits, however, must be renewed at the end of each year, Sowell said. The dispute over the permits created uncertainty for missionaries and caused division among Zambian Baptist churches. Earlier this year, a large group of congregations formed a new Baptist convention and offered to partner with Southern Baptist missionaries, opening the door to the permit grantings.

FLORIDA BAPTISTS EXPEL CHARISMATIC CHURCHES: LEESBURG, Fla. (ABP) — Two churches targeted for charismatic tendencies have been expelled from the Florida Baptist Convention, but the jury is still out on a third. The ouster by the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions followed an investigation into allegations that the three churches advocated non-Baptist doctrines such as speaking in tongues and being "slain in the Spirit." The mission board voted May 17 to deny voting privileges to Trumpets of Truth International Church in Homosassa Springs and Riverside Christian Church in Hernando, and to decline any mission gifts from the churches. After meeting with leaders of Main Street Church, however, the ad hoc committee said it was "unable to finalize a recommendation at this time," and asked for further talks. The committee will report again in September. Florida Baptist Executive Director John Sullivan said the ousted churches hold views contrary to those expressed in "The Baptist Faith and Message," a doctrinal confession adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. "We are not in the Florida Baptist Convention asking for doctrinal uniformity," said Sullivan. "We are asking if you're going to be a Baptist church, you ought to at least believe like a Baptist church believes in this broad parameter of 'The Baptist Faith and Message.'"

BAN ON LIQUOR PRICE ADVERTISING STRUCK DOWN BY SUPREME COURT: WASHINGTON (ABP) — Rhode Island's ban on liquor-price advertising violates the First Amendment's free-speech guarantees, all nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court said May 13. The ruling reversed a 1994 decision by a federal appeals court that a 1956 law banning alcohol price advertisements, except those inside liquor stores, was proper under the 21st Amendment. That amendment repealed the 18th Amendment's prohibition of alcohol and gave states power to regulate the sale and use of alcoholic beverages. Justice John Paul Stevens, however, in an opinion joined by five colleagues, said the 21st Amendment cannot be used to justify an infringement on free speech.

Bibliocipher

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LWD MCGH OCGI ACQFF DVAG LDWE OCG
UGQU, OCGI HGVOCGD EQDDI, HWD QDG SVPGH
VH EQDDVQSG; XZO QDG QA OCG QHSGFA
MCVBC QDG VH CGQPGH.

EQDT OMGFPG: OMGHOI-LVPG

This week's clue: H equals N.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs Two: Ten.

Tibetans desperate for hope, need good news of freedom

LHASA, Tibet (BP) — Hundreds of pilgrims hurry through the pre-dawn darkness along the Lingkor, an ancient path encircling the oldest district of Lhasa, the capital of Tibet.

Sunrise glows at the horizon, illuminating thousands of prayer flags fluttering in winds the Tibetans believe will carry their scripted prayers into the heavens. Hundreds of gold-painted prayer wheels line the path. The faithful reach out and spin the capsules, launching requests to benevolent spirits or begging appeasement from jealous demons.

A pilgrim spreads his body onto the path and presses his forehead to the ground. Then he rises, steps to the imprint of his forehead in the dirt and drops again to the ground. He has inched his way nearly 200 miles in an arduous journey he believes will help him escape Buddhism's painful cycle of life, death, and rebirth.

"Tibetans believe the more merit one has, the better chance one has to be reincarnated into a better, higher way of life," explains a Christian in Tibet. "Just about everywhere you look in Lhasa, you see people seeking hope and escape from this cycle."

"Their devotion is staggering, but so is their bondage," the Christian added. "Satan has blinded them. It tears at us that they've had so little chance to see the light."

Southern Baptists set aside a 24-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. May 24 to pray for the people of Tibet. The 1996 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization focused on the nearly 5 million Tibetans worldwide.

"Tibetan Buddhism, behind its thin veneer of kindness and nonviolence, is a hopeless religion of works that only leads its adherents into an ever-deepening bondage to the powers of darkness," said Randy Sprinkle, director of the Foreign Mission Board's (FMB) international prayer strategy office.

"The saving love of the one, true God as ultimately expressed in his son Jesus Christ is almost completely unknown in Tibet."

Tibet lost its independence as a Buddhist state in 1950 when China invaded the country. Tibetans have stubbornly defended their culture and ethnic identity against efforts to integrate them into Chinese society.



WITHOUT HOPE — Tibetan Buddhists like this woman spin a prayer wheel to send their pleas for help or mercy to the spirits controlling their lives. Buddhism is a "hopeless religion of works" that leads Tibetans ever deeper into bondage to dark powers, says Randy Sprinkle, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office. The name of Jesus is almost completely unknown in Tibet, where there are no known churches and only a handful of believers. The 1996 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization on May 24-25 focused on the nearly 5 million Tibetans worldwide. (BP photo by Thomas Graham)

An estimated 1.3 million Tibetans have died in prisons, violent clashes, and from starvation under communist occupation.

There are no more than a handful of Christians in Tibet, and no known congregations.

"Tibetans are poor, desperate people who pour out everything they have to worship these idols, these demons," Sprinkle said. "Southern Baptists can have a powerful part in changing that by participating in a season of prayer and fasting for Tibet."

For more information on participating in the annual Day of Prayer and Fasting, write the FMB's international prayer strategy office at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767.

Baptist Record

CARRIER ROUTE 39
271 6-06
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SO000
901 COMMERCE ST STF 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205